22% of persons with disabilities had been provided disability certificates, out of the total population of persons with disabilities, as per Census, 2001.

(b) to (d) The Administrative Reforms Commission in its 12th Report has referred to the need to devise simple, transparent and client-friendly procedures for issuance of disability certificates.

Under Section 2 (p), The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 provides for certification of disability. Further, there are guidelines for evaluation and assessment of various disabilities and for issuance of disability certificates to persons with disabilities. These guidelines are revised from time to time.

A revised simplified, transparent and client-friendly procedure has been prepared for incorporation in The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Rules, 1996, which includes a provision for a time limit for issuance of disability certificates.

Survey of beggars

2203. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a survey conducted by Delhi Social Work Department of about 3500 beggars, has revealed that four are Degree holders, six have completed college courses and many of them earn around Rs. 500 a day, which is higher than what several blue and white collar workers make;

(b) if so, how Government proposes to deal with growing menace of begging, in Delhi itself, where they are 75000, so that educated and literate are not forced to resort to begging; and

(c) the perspective planning to end begging menace all over India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) A survey on beggary was conducted by Department of Social Work, University of Delhi on the request of Government of NCT of Delhi. Out of surveyed beggars, 6 were found to be graduates and 4 were post graduates. As per the report, 22 beggars earn between Rs. 200/- to 500/- per day.

(b) and (c) As per above report it is difficult to assess the exact number of beggars at any given time in Delhi as beggar population is floating and they keep migrating in and out of Delhi. As per the figures collected from different areas at different times, the average number of beggars in Delhi was 58,570.

Government of Delhi have reported earlier that regular raids are conducted to apprehend Beggars under Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 as extended to Delhi. Many other steps like mobile courts under the Act, Opening of Shelter Homes, involvement of NGOs in training

and rehabilitation of Beggars, Public Awareness Campaigns to make people desist from giving alms have been part of perspective plans to end begging menace.

Social security programmes

2204. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is committed to the upliftment of weaker sections of the society and ensuring social security of elderly and disabled persons; and

(b) if so, the details of the programmes implemented for the purpose in Uttar Pradesh and achievements made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The Government implements several schemes for social security for the weaker sections including elderly and disabled. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has many schemes such as Integrated Programme for Older Persons for running Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres and Mobile Medicare Units, Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of Aid's/Appliances (ADIP) and provides grant in aid for rehabilitation/ empowerment of persons with disabilities through projects such as Special Schools for Mentally Retarded/Hearing Impaired/Visually Handicapped, Vocational Training Centres etc. under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme.

The Ministry of Rural Development also administers the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) which was launched from 1995-96 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Later on, NSAP was transferred to the State Plan *w.e.f.* 2002-03 and funds are provided as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to the States. At present NSAP comprises of following schemes:—

(i) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)

(ii) National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)

(iii) Annapurna Scheme

(iv) Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)

(v) Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)

(b) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Recognition as SC

2205. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had received representation from Namasudra community for recognition as Scheduled Caste;